

Production No. 9F09

The Simpsons

"HOMER'S TRIPLE BYPASS"

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TABLE DRAFT

Date 6/4/92

NOTE: FOR TABLE READ ONLY

"HOMER'S TRIPLE BYPASS"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
PATTY.....JULIE KAVNER
SELMA.....JULIE KAVNER
GRAMPA.....DAN CASTELLANETA
BURNS.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SMITHERS.....HANK AZARIA
LENNY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
CARL.....HANK AZARIA
KRUSTY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SIDESHOW MEL.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
EDDIE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
LOU.....HANK AZARIA
CHIEF WIGGUM.....HANK AZARIA
DR. HIBBERT.....HANK AZARIA
SKINNER.....HANK AZARIA
NED FLANDERS.....HANK AZARIA
REVEREND LOVEJOY.....HANK AZARIA
HELEN LOVEJOY.....YEARDLEY SMITH

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PRINCESS KASHMIR.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
KENT BROCKMAN.....HANK AZARIA
JAILBIRD.....HANK AZARIA
NICK RIVIERA.....HANK AZARIA
INTERN.....HANK AZARIA
NURSE.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
INSURANCE AGENT.....HANK AZARIA
MALE FUNDRAISER.....HANK AZARIA
FEMALE FUNDRAISER.....YEARDLEY SMITH
PIG.....HANK AZARIA
MOLE MAN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
REPORTERS.....DAN/HANK/NANCY
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER...JULIE KAVNER
VIDEOTAPE NARRATOR.....DAN CASTELLANETA
LUCY.....JULIE KAVNER
ANESTHESIOLOGIST.....HANK AZARIA
BARFLY #1.....HANK AZARIA
TALK SHOW HOST.....HANK AZARIA
COFFEE POT MAN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MED STUDENTS.....DAN/HANK/YEARDLEY

"HOMER'S TRIPLE BYPASS"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. HOMER'S HEART

HOMER'S heart is BEATING regularly. Super-imposed on screen is the time of day: 6:59:57 AM. When the time reaches 7:00:00 AM, a LOUD CLOCK RADIO goes off, playing an easy-listening version of "TIE A YELLOW RIBBON" at full volume.

The heart is startled, twists in the middle, then rapidly beats along with the music.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Homer gets out of bed, SLAMS off the radio and pounds his chest.

HOMER

That's it... no more pork rinds in bed.

Oooh... crumbs!

Homer dabs his finger and scoops up the crumbs, making LIP SMACKING noises as he eats them.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Homer, in his underwear and t-shirt, steps on the scale. CLOSE UP of the scale: the numbers spin, then settle on 162 lbs.

HOMER (V.O.)

Woo hoo! One-sixty-two!

PULL BACK to see Homer has cheated by hanging from the shower rod, which is bending under his weight. SFX: HIDEOUS METAL GROAN.

HOMER

(SLY) The scale never lies. Heh heh.

The bar remains bent when Homer walks away.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

BART takes a bite of cereal and quickly chews it.

BART

Hey Lis, there was a big train wreck
last night. Wanna see the victims?

LISA

(SUSPICIOUS) Okay.

Bart sticks out his tongue which is covered with chewed up cereal.

LISA (CONT'D)

Bart, that's gross!

BART

You're right. Let's bury them at sea.

With his spoon, Bart scrapes the cereal off his tongue into Lisa's bowl where it lands with a **PLOP**. Just as he does this, Homer, dressed for work, enters the kitchen.

LISA

(SCREAMS) Daaad!

CLOSE UP

Homer's heart. It freezes as Lisa **SCREAMS**.

BACK TO SCENE

Homer's face turns pale white. He clutches his chest.

HOMER

(LOUD WHISPER) Knock... it... off...
or... I'll kill... both... of you.
(BREATHES FAST)

MARGE enters the kitchen.

MARGE

Homer, I prepared a special surprise
just for you.

Homer recovers his composure. He pictures what his
surprise could be.

HOMER'S FANTASY

The surprise is a huge, roast PIG with an apple in its
mouth. Homer pulls the apple out.

PIG

Psst! The best meat's in the rump.

The pig winks.

BACK TO SCENE

Homer snaps out of it when Marge presents him with a bowl
of bland oatmeal topped with apple slices.

HOMER

What the hell is this?

MARGE

Nice healthy oatmeal. Try it, honey.

It's good.

Homer takes a mouthful and starts chewing.

INT. HOMER'S HEART

Homer's CREAKING, SQUEAKY heart starts to clear up and
sound healthier with each bite.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

(SARCASTIC) All right, Marge, you've
had your little joke.

He pushes the bowl of oatmeal aside.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Now feed your man.

He shovels bacon and eggs onto his plate and chows down.

INT. HOMER'S HEART

Homer's poor heart reverts to its CREAKING, STRAINING condition.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

Ah, much better. Pass the butter.

Pass the salt.

Homer sees Marge pouring pan drippings into a coffee can. Homer takes the can and pours it over his food.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SMOOTHLY) Thank you.

MARGE

(WORRIED) Homey, I worry about you sometimes. I never see you exercise.

HOMER

I get plenty of exercise at work.

Those chairs don't swivel by

themselves.

INT. HOMER'S CAR - LATER

Homer, driving to work, is stuck behind a slow moving tanker truck labelled, "LIQUID NITROGEN". He flashes his lights, then HONKS his horn.

HOMER

Come on, come on! "Highly Flammable"

my butt!

Homer repeatedly SLAMS into the truck's bumper.

INT. TRUCK CAB

The MOLE MAN is driving.

MOLE MAN

Oh dear.

The cab lurches forward. His glasses fall off and **SHATTER**.

MOLE MAN (CONT'D)

Now, you've done it.

INT. HOMER CAR

Homer **GROWLS** and repeatedly **RAMS** the rear of the truck.

INT. HOMER'S HEART

We see Homer's heart swinging back and forth, bouncing off the rib cage as Homer rams the truck.

EXT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - PARKING LOT - LATER

Homer can't find a place to park. Right by the entrance, he eyes the handicap spaces longingly.

HOMER

Lucky handicapped people.

He moves on and parks. Homer **HUFFS** and **PUFFS** as he walks up to the entrance of the plant. He's so winded, he has to lean against the wall. We pull back to reveal he's only walked about ten feet from where he parked.

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - DONUT AREA

Homer wolfs down donuts as he shoots the bull with LENNY.

LENNY

Oughta cut down on those donuts, Homer.

My doctor told me not to eat them.

HOMER

If your doctor told you you'd live
longer if you jumped off the Empire
State Building, would you do it? Too
bad. More for me.

Homer wolfs down more donuts.

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - BURNS' OFFICE

BURNS is in front of a bank of monitors with SMITHERS,
staring at one screen that shows Homer eating donuts.

BURNS

Is that man's job to stand around and
eat my donuts? Because if it is, I
want to give him a raise. He's the
best employee I've ever seen.

SMITHERS

Actually that's Homer Simpson, one of
your puddingheads from Sector 7G.

Burns looks back at the monitor. Homer has crawled onto
the table and is asleep with his head on a donut box.

BURNS

Bring him to me!

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - BURNS' OFFICE - LATER

Homer stands nervously in front of his boss. As an INSET,
we see Homer's heart react to what he's experiencing. The
heart continues to beat rapidly.

BURNS

(CONGENIAL) Relax, Simpson. I just
brought you in here for a friendly,
"Hello."

We see Homer's heart rate relax.

BURNS (CONT'D)

... and, "Goodbye!" You're fired!

Homer's heart speeds up again.

BURNS (CONT'D)

But wait, perhaps I'm being too hasty.

You are highly skilled...

The heart relaxes again.

BURNS (CONT'D)

... at goofing off!

Homer's heart races again, and shifts back and forth as Burns really lays into him.

BURNS (CONT'D)

You've got a real talent... for
stuffing your face!

Homer's heart is hyperactive.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Your indolence is inefficacious!

Homer doesn't know what this means, and his heart is not sure how to respond.

BURNS (CONT'D)

That means you're terrible!

That's the last straw -- Homer's heart freaks out and turns blue. Homer clutches his chest and falls to the floor as Burns yells at him.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Don't clutch your chest when I'm
talking to you. And stop those
infantile gurgling noises.

SMITHERS

Mr. Burns, I think he's having a heart attack.

BURNS

(HAPPY) Oh Smithers, it's been ages since I browbeat a man into a heart attack. I feel so alive!

INT. LENNY'S CAR - A LITTLE LATER

Homer is crammed into the back seat of Lenny's Gremlin, his face crushed against the rear window. Smithers looks on, concerned.

LENNY

(CONCERNED) Don't worry, Mr. Smithers. We'll get Homer to a hospital.

CARL

(PATTING HOMER, CHOKED UP) Hang in there, Big Guy.

The car pulls away.

LENNY

Yahoo! Half day!

Lenny and Carl celebrate for a beat, then they pass the Kwik-E-Mart.

CARL

Hey Homer, my wife asked me to pick up some cat food at the Kwik-E-Mart. Mind if we stop?

HOMER

(WEAKLY) S'okay... get me... some jerky.

EXT. ROAD - A LITTLE LATER

Lenny's car waits as a deer crosses at a deer crossing sign.

LENNY

Look at that! How do they know to
cross there?

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Lenny and Carl help Homer into the Emergency Room, a very busy place. We see familiar characters with assorted ailments...

The camera moves past JASPER, his beard caught in the spokes of his bicycle.

Then we see SIDESHOW MEL stuck in a circus cannon. Krusty is with him as a team of DOCTORS look on.

KRUSTY

(ANGRY - TO MEL) I only have three
rules:

Krusty WHACKS him after every rule.

KRUSTY (CONT'D)

Don't date the help. Stay off the
hooch. And don't get stuck in the
cannon!

The doctors light the cannon's fuse.

MEL

I'm telling you, it's not going to
work.

The canon explodes, and when the smoke clears, Mel is still stuck.

MEL

See?

KRUSTY

You know who I really feel sorry for...
Sideshow Phil. Mel's standing on his
shoulders.

The camera moves on to find CHIEF WIGGUM. His jaw is
locked wide open. EDDIE stands next to him holding a
tremendous submarine sandwich.

EDDIE

He was taking a bite and his jaw
locked.

LOU

Look. I can fit my entire fist in
here.

He demonstrates by putting his fist in Wiggum's mouth.

WIGGUM

(ANGRY OPEN MOUTH NOISES)

Homer is greeted by a frazzled INTERN who's been on duty
for a hundred-fifty hours straight.

INTERN

Send that woman to x-ray... pump that
man's stomach.

He looks woozy for a beat.

INTERN (CONT'D)

Nurse, give me 50cc's of adrenaline,
stat!

The intern takes the adrenaline and injects it in his own
arm.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Marge sits at the table with PATTY and SELMA, clipping
coupons.

PATTY

Oooh, "Buy three tubes of Mr. Blister,
get one free."

The PHONE RINGS and Marge answers...

MARGE

(INTO THE PHONE) Hello?... Yes... Oh,
dear lord! I'll be right there. (TO
HER SISTERS - VERY WORRIED) Homer's in
the hospital! They think it's his
heart.

Marge runs out, terribly upset. After a beat...

SELMA

Oh, my God.

PATTY

What?

SELMA

Five cents off on wax paper.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

DR. HIBBERT and ASSISTANTS are jump-starting Homer's heart
with the defibrillator.

DR. HIBBERT

Clear!

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - BURNS OFFICE

Smithers notices a flashing light on a grid map of
Springfield.

SMITHERS

Look, sir. Power consumption's up in
quadrant three.

Burns greedily points to the grid.

BURNS

Excellent. Two more flashes of that
light and I'm a billionaire. (CHUCKLES
MANIACALLY)

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - LATER

Marge runs in to find Hibbert and his assistants putting
away the defibrillator paddles.

HIBBERT

I'm afraid we're too late.

Shock registers on Marge's face.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

HIBBERT (CONT'D)

I'm afraid we're too late. The deli's
closed. We'll have to order Chinese.

Marge looks around and finds Homer sitting up dazed on the
table. She runs over and gives him a big hug.

MARGE

Oh, Homey, I was so frightened.

HOMER

Marge, my whole life flashed before my
eyes.

FLASHBACK

We see Homer's life:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A YOUNGER GRAMPA is looking through the maternity ward
window. PAN across a row of babies to see BABY HOMER in a
crib labelled "Simpson." He's eating a slice of pizza.

GRAMPA

How'd he get that?!

The nurses shrug.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ten-year old Homer is TPing a house. He throws a roll of
toilet paper over a tree.

HOMER

Whoo-hoo! Heh, heh, heh.

PULL BACK to see the house is covered in toilet paper.
Grampa emerges from the front door.

GRAMPA

Not our house, boy!

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

Homer is debating Senator John F. Kennedy. He is sweaty and shifty-eyed.

HOMER

Senator Kennedy has the charisma, but I
have the experience.

FLASHBACK ENDS - BACK TO SCENE

HOMER

No, wait, that last one was Nixon's
life.

DR. HIBBERT

Mr. Simpson, I'm afraid you've just had
a mild heart attack.

HOMER

But I'm out of the woods now, right? I
mean, whatever doesn't kill me can only
make me stronger.

DR. HIBBERT

Oh no, quite the opposite. It's made
you weak as a kitten. (CHUCKLES)

MARGE

(TO HIBBERT) I tried to help him! I've
been using imitation cheese on his
apple pie.

HOMER

(SHOCKED) Marge!

DR. HIBBERT

Please don't get excited Mr. Simpson.

(INDICATES THE DEFIBRILLATOR) The
machine takes 15 minutes to re-charge.

MARGE

Doctor, what can you do?

DR. HIBBERT

Well, we can't fix his heart, but we
can tell you exactly how damaged it is.

HOMER

(IMPRESSED) What an age we live in!

INT. HOSPITAL

We see Homer's head behind a full body screen. On the
screen, Homer's circulatory system is green and glowing.
Hibbert explains the procedure to Marge.

DR. HIBBERT

What you see here is the radioactive
dye we injected, flowing through your
husband's circulatory system.

NURSE

(HOLDING A GLOWING SYRINGE) But doctor,
I haven't given him the shot yet!

DR. HIBBERT

(QUIETLY) Good lord.

Behind the screen, Homer smiles and waves.

INT. HOSPITAL - TREADMILL ROOM - DAY

Dr. Hibbert, holding a clipboard, watches as Homer, with
electrodes taped to his chest, walks a treadmill.

HOMER

Am I there yet?

DR. HIBBERT

(PATIENTLY) No, Homer.

HOMER

Am I there yet?

DR. HIBBERT

(PATIENTLY) No, Homer.

HOMER

Am I there yet?

DR. HIBBERT

(PATIENTLY) No, Homer.

INT. DR. HIBBERT'S OFFICE

Hibbert sits at his desk. He points to a graph.

HIBBERT

Up until this point, you were doing
just fine. Then I turned on the
machine.

HOMER

Doc, in the past few hours you've poked
and prodded every nook and cranny of my
flabby old hide like I was the prize
pig at the county fair. What's the
verdict?

HIBBERT

Homer, I'm afraid you'll have to
undergo a coronary by-pass operation.

HOMER

Say it in English, doc.

HIBBERT

You're going to need open heart
surgery!

HOMER

Spare me your medical mumbo jumbo.

HIBBERT

We're going to cut you open and tinker
with your ticker.

HOMER

Could you dumb it down a shade?

MARGE

(INTERJECTING) Doctor, we'll do what
ever it takes to get my Homie well.

HIBBERT

Good. (SOMBER) I must warn you though,
the procedure will cost you upwards of
40,000 dollars.

HOMER

I'll give you 500.

MARGE

Homer!

HOMER

(OUT OF CORNER OF MOUTH) Marge, you've
got to haggle with these guys.

INT. HOMER'S CAR

Marge drives. She SNIFFLES a few times.

HOMER

I know how this happened, Marge. It's my relentless climb up the corporate ladder. (OVER DRAMATIC) Oh why couldn't I have tempered that burning ambition of mine?

MARGE

We'll get that money somehow.

HOMER

Don't worry, Marge. America's health insurance system is second only to Japan, Canada, Sweden, Great Britain... well, all of Europe. But, you can thank your lucky stars we don't live in Paraguay.

Marge breaks down CRYING.

INT. POWER PLANT - BURNS' OFFICE

Mr. Burns is looking at the company health policy.

BURNS

(FALSE) I want to help you, Simpson. I surely do. And our plant insurance covers a plethora of ailments: demon possession, imbalances of bodily humors, St. Vitus' Dance... But I'm afraid you've slipped through the cracks with this "heart surgery" of yours.

HOMER

Oh, I get it. Hosed by the fine print, eh?

Homer grabs the policy. It says, "NO OPERATIONS" in big bold letters. Homer's signature is right under it.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marge and Homer are in bed with their financial records spread out in front of them.

HOMER

Okay, okay. We need forty-thousand dollars. How much do we have in the checkbook?

MARGE

Seventy dollars.

HOMER

Have we deposited any forty-thousand dollar checks that haven't cleared yet?

MARGE

No.

HOMER

What about my investments?

MARGE

Well... We sold your big ball of string
last year to buy you that new watch
band... that's about it.

Homer gestures to a large beer can pyramid stacked against
the wall.

HOMER

Are you saying this is worthless?

MARGE

Do you think it's worth 40,000 dollars?

Homer thoughtfully examines the beer cans.

HOMER

(MOANS) It's garbage!

He slumps on the bed.

Marge hugs him.

MARGE

Homer, I'm scared.

A crafty look crosses Homer's face.

HOMER

Don't worry, Marge, my heart may be
bad, but I've still got...

He taps his head.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SEARCHING FOR WORD)... this deal.

EXT. MERRY WIDOW INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY

A neon sign shows a Merry Widow holding a huge check. Her legs dance crazily on her husband's grave.

INT. INSURANCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Homer sits in a jogging suit with the price tag still on it. An INSURANCE AGENT sits at his desk, on the phone.

INSURANCE AGENT

(ON PHONE) Uh huh... Uh huh... That's all I need to know. (HANGS UP) Well, Dr. Bart says you're in perfect health.

HOMER

Well, then I guess I have health insurance.

Homer starts to pocket a policy.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SMUG) Now let me tell you something, Mr. Sucker...

INSURANCE AGENT

Hold on there, you still have to sign the policy.

Homer takes the pen, but as he leans over to sign, he has another heart attack. He clutches his chest.

HOMER

Picking up pen... too much... stabbing pain... in chest...

Homer tries desperately to sign the dotted line, but the Insurance Agent pulls the policy out of reach. Homer collapses on the desk.

INSURANCE AGENT

(STERN) We'll get you to the hospital,
but that's all.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

Once again, a horizontal Homer is surrounded by Dr. Hibbert
and ASSISTANTS.

HIBBERT

Clear!

Hibbert **SHOCKS** Homer back to life again with the
defibrillator.

HOMER

(DREAMILY) Oh doctor, I was in a
wonderful place filled with fire and
brimstone. And there were all these
guys in red pajamas sticking pitchforks
in my butt.

HIBBERT

Mr. Simpson, you must get that
operation as soon as possible.

HOMER

I can't afford it. (RE:
DEFIBRILLATOR) Maybe I should just buy
one of those machines.

HIBBERT

Mr. Simpson, I may have a solution to
your plight. Have you ever heard of
"The Bottom Of The Barrel Foundation"?

HOMER

(THINKING) It does ring a bell...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - A FEW MONTHS EARLIER

SFX: DOORBELL

Bart answers the front doorbell to find a MALE and FEMALE FUNDRAISER.

MALE FUNDRAISER

We're from The Bottom Of The Barrel
Foundation.

FEMALE FUNDRAISER

We provide bare-bones health care for
the dregs of society. Won't you please
help?

BART

Here's five dollars, but more
importantly, I'm learning about social
responsibility.

Bart hands them money, but Homer darts over and snatches it
out of the Fundraiser's hand. Homer **SLAMS** the door shut.

HOMER

C'mere son.

Bart hops up on his father's knee.

HOMER (CONT'D)

These charity guys are always coming around, asking for money -- but they never give us any. It's a one-way street! So the next time some charity comes a-knockin', tell 'em "I gave at the office." Oh... unless they're selling those really big candy bars.

BART

Check.

DISSOLVE BACK
TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

(COVERING) The Bottom Of The Barrel Foundation -- I've never regretted giving them money.

HIBBERT

They're not the finest institution... In fact, just by recommending them I'm risking malpractice.

HOMER

But they'll help me? For free?

HIBBERT

Many people are uncomfortable with the thought of accepting charity. But I suggest you put your pride aside just this once.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Homer barges in.

HOMER

Great news, Marge... I'm a charity case!

MARGE

That's wonderful, Homer.

HOMER

Round up the kids, I want to be the first to tell 'em about the rib spreader.

MARGE

Do you think we should? It might upset them.

HOMER

They're old enough to know the truth, and I'm not gonna sugarcoat it.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The entire family is gathered, as Homer explains the heart bypass operation.

HOMER

So the tiny Aorta Fairies will take Mr. Leg Vein on a long trip to get married to Princess Left Ventricle.

LISA

Dad, are you trying to tell us you're getting a coronary-artery bypass graft?

HOMER

Uh, yeah.

BART

(UPSET) Oh, no. What if they botch
it? I won't have a dad... for a while.

HOMER

Now don't worry. This old cuss is
gonna be around for a long, long time.

Homer clutches his chest, GURGLES and slumps to the floor.

EXT. STREET - DAY

An ambulance speeds to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Hibbert is using the defibrillator on Homer. He SHOCKS
Homer -- Homer gestures for another shock. Hibbert SHOCKS
Homer again -- Homer gives him the "OK" sign.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - SKINNER'S OFFICE

Bart sits in front of Principal Skinner's desk.

SKINNER

All right, Simpson, what happened to
your homework?

BART

Well, I don't like to talk about it,
but... my dad's going to have a heart
bypass operation and I'm too worried to
think about anything else.

SKINNER

(SKEPTICAL) Uh-huh. That's a familiar
little tune.

Skinner pulls a note from Bart's bulging file.

SKINNER

"May, 1989. Please excuse Bart. His father is having a heart bypass operation and he's too worried to think about anything else."

BART

But it's true this time.

SKINNER

(HANDS BART A SLIP) Two weeks' detention.

HALL MONITOR leads Bart out.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

(A LA JOE FRIDAY) One more question, son.

BART

What's that?

SKINNER

What was the homework you didn't do?

BART

I was supposed to learn the definition of irony.

SKINNER

You just did.

MUSIC: DRAGNET-LIKE STING

EXT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - SCHOOLYARD

As CHILDREN play in the schoolyard, Lisa watches from afar.

LISA

Look at them frolicking like they
haven't a care in the world. (PLUCKS A
DANDELION) Life is so fragile. We're
here for such a short time.

She blows the dandelion and the seeds scatter in the wind.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD GENERAL HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. HOSPITAL - HOMER'S ROOM

Homer, now in a hospital gown, happily works his adjustable
bed.

HOMER

Bed goes up. Bed goes down. Bed goes
up. Bed goes down...

Homer looks at a picture of his family and SIGHS.

FLANDERS (V.O.)

Homer Simpson, is that you?

A hand pulls back the curtain separating the hospital room.
NED FLANDERS is in the other bed.

HOMER

Flanders? What are you doing here?

FLANDERS

Caught a burglar rifling through my
china hutch last night. Well sir, he
pulled a gun on me, and when I wrestled
him to the ground, it went off.

HOMER

(EXCITED) Where'd he shoot you?

FLANDERS

No such luck. I shot him.

HOMER

Oh.

FLANDERS

Anyway, now he needs a kidney, and I've got two, so, I decided to share the wealth! What are you in for?

HOMER

I got a bad heart.

FLANDERS

If I could give you my heart, Homer, I would.

HOMER

Shut up, Flanders.

There is a silent beat, then --

FLANDERS

So, what's your doctor like?

HOMER

(LYING) Well, he's costing me a fortune, but I figure I'm worth it.

NICK RIVIERA

(ENTERING) Hi, everybody! I'm Dr. Nick Riviera -- if you find a cheaper doctor, you're at a veterinarian! Mr. Simpson, I will be performing your surgery.

Homer points to a man behind Riviera.

HOMER

Who's that guy?

NICK RIVIERA

He's from the medical board. He just wants to make sure I don't do what I did two months ago. (CHEERY) Well, see you in the operating place!

Riviera opens the door to see a bunch of REPORTERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS taking pictures.

REPORTERS

Dr. Riviera! Dr. Riviera! Where are the bodies? (ETC.)

Riviera shuts the door.

NICK RIVIERA

It's such a nice day, I think I'll go out the window.

He climbs out the window. Homer looks very sad.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HOMER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Homer overhears Flanders praying.

FLANDERS

Dear Lord, thank you for Ziggy comics, little baby ducks, and "Sweatin' to the Oldies", Volumes One, Two and Four. And please look after my good friend Homer and his nice doctor who shimmied down the drainpipe.

Homer, in his own way, tries to pray, too.

HOMER

Dear God, thank you for only giving me
three heart attacks, and for freeing my
doctor on a technicality. Now, I'm
really scared about this operation
tomorrow, so, if you want me to go
through with it, please just give me a
sign.

Homer looks heavenward.

FLANDERS

Hey, Homie, I can't finish my pudding.
You want it?

HOMER

(TO GOD) Thank you, Lord!

Homer polishes off the pudding as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

... And that's why God causes train wrecks.

The kids nod, satisfied.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Next, I'd like to discuss, "Coping with the loss of your father."

LISA

(TO BART) Coincidence? I think not.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Bart, Lisa... I assure you I planned this lecture weeks ago.

BART

Well, when I die I'm gonna be a ghost, just like in the movies. I'll go in girls' locker rooms -- pull off stuffy guys' toupees -- as usual, Hollywood's got it right.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Bart, it's not like that at all. If you're bad, you go to Hell. If you're good, you go to heaven.

She writes "HELL" and "HEAVEN" on the board.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER (CONT'D)

And in heaven, you get to do whatever
you like best, all the time.

Bart pictures Homer in heaven with wings and a halo, lying
an floating on an adjustable cloud.

HOMER

Cloud goes up. Cloud goes down. Cloud
goes up. Cloud goes down...

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HOMER'S ROOM

Homer is playing with his adjustable bed.

HOMER

Bed goes up. Bed goes down...

KRUSTY jumps into Homer's room.

KRUSTY

Hey hey!

A shocked Homer clutches his chest and **GASPS**.

KRUSTY (CONT'D)

Hey, what's the matter? (CHIPPER) Oh,
that's right. My grotesque appearance.

HOMER

No Krusty, I'm glad you're here. I
could really use a good laugh.

KRUSTY

Well, there's nothing funny about what
you're about to go through. I know,
I'm in the Zipper Club myself.

Krusty rips open his shirt to reveal a long scar running down his chest.

KRUSTY (CONT'D)

It's no picnic.

He lights up a cigarette.

HOMER

But the doctor told me I could do everything I did before.

KRUSTY

Yeah, you can do everything you did before, just slowly and painfully.

HOMER

But you seem okay.

KRUSTY

Yeah? Well, I got news for ya. (TAPS HIS WHITE FACE) This isn't make-up.

DISSOLVE TO:

Next, GRAMPA comes to visit Homer.

GRAMPA

They say the greatest tragedy is when a father outlives his son. I've never fully understood why that is. Frankly, I can see an up side to it.

DISSOLVE TO:

Later, CARL and LENNY visit Homer, with a huge card that his friends have signed.

LENNY

We passed this card around at work.

When they hand him the card, we see that it has been written on the back of a sign saying, "Emergency Procedures -- Do Not Remove."

HOMER

Gee, thanks, guys.

CARL

They had a hell of a time replacing you.

CUT TO:

INT. POWER PLANT ~ HOMER'S STATION

At Homer's console, we see that he has been replaced by a brick on a string, which holds down a lever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HOMER'S ROOM - LATER

Moe and Barney pay their respects.

BARNEY

When I first heard about the operation, I was against it. But then I thought, if Homer wants to be a woman, so be it. I even picked out a new name for you -- Harriet.

HOMER

Barney, I'm not getting a sex change!

BARNEY

Then what the hell am I going to do with this jumbo thong bikini? (HOLDS IT UP)

MOE

Homer, I snuck you in a beer for old
time's sake.

Moe pulls a mug and a bottle from his jacket, and pours
Homer a tall one.

HOMER

(TOUCHED) Thanks, Moe.

Homer starts to drink.

MOE

Ah, you know, Homer, that beer ain't
free.

DISSOLVE TO:

REVEREND LOVEJOY stops by Homer's room.

HOMER

All right, Padre, I'm counting on you
to pull me through this. What have you
got in your bag of tricks?

REV. LOVEJOY

Well, Homer, we all know you've been a
slipshod Christian, so we started a
prayer chain to help you.

HOMER

Prayer chain!? Isn't that what you do
for some lame-o who's not even worth
lighting a lousy candle f...

(REALIZING) Oh.

INT. LOVEJOY HOME

HELEN LOVEJOY

(ON PHONE) Hello. I'm calling to ask
you to pray for Homer Simpson and ask a
friend to do the same.

INT. KENT BROCKMAN'S CAR

KENT BROCKMAN is on his car phone.

KENT BROCKMAN

Hello, I'm Kent Brockman. Please pray
for Homer Simpson and pass it on.

PULL BACK and ROTATE 180 degrees to reveal that Kent's car
has flipped over and is lying at the bottom of a ravine.
He continues to chat happily while an emergency crew tries
to extract him.

INT. PHONE ROOM - DAY

PRINCESS KASHMIR on the phone. Behind her is a sign
labelled "1-909-SEX-CHAT."

PRINCESS KASHMIR

Oh baby, you make me so hot. And don't
forget to pray for Homer Simpson.

INT. PRISON - CONTINUOUS

JAILBIRD is on a prison phone.

JAILBIRD

I'm calling about a righteous dude who
needs our help.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BART

(ON PHONE) I gave at the office.

Bart hangs up, looks at a smiling picture of Homer.

BART (CONT'D)

That was for you, old timer.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S BEDROOM

Marge enters to find Lisa studying THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CARDIOLOGY.

LISA

(RE: JOURNAL) Mom, this is fascinating.

Did you know that they'll stop Dad's heart while they suture the...

MARGE

I don't know if I like you reading all those cardiology books. It gives me the willies.

LISA

No, Mom, it's very reassuring. And I've learned a great deal from this cow's heart I got at the butcher shop.

Lisa **FLOPS** down a cow's heart on butcher paper. Marge turns her head.

MARGE

Lisa, please, just leave this to the experts.

INT. DR. RIVIERA'S HOUSE

Riviera crams for the operation by watching a video.

VIDEO TAPE NARRATOR (V.O.)

(CHEERY) ... after removing the leg's
saphenous vein, check it for leaks.
Then put it aside. We'll be needing it
later.

Riviera jots crib notes on his arm.

DR. RIVIERA

"Put aside. Will need later."

VIDEO TAPE NARRATOR (V.O.)

Insert the retractor and crank it until
the ribs swing open like a rusty
drawbridge.

DR. RIVIERA

(WATCHING TAPE) Oh no! Blood! (MOANS)

VIDEO TAPE NARRATOR

The next step is the most dangerous
part of all. The incision in the
coronary...

Suddenly, the video BLIPS off and is replaced with a
daytime talk show with a GRAY-HAIRED HOST.

TALK SHOW HOST

We're back with more of "People Who
Look Like Things."

A PANEL OF GUESTS sit beside items they resemble, including
a cash register, a palm tree and a jack-o-lantern. One man
looks like a coffee pot.

CLOSE UP - MAN

SUPER: BRAD JACOBS

COFFEE POT

COFFEE POT MAN

It's been a nightmare. People are
always twisting my nose.

TALK SHOW HOST

(SMIRKING) Nose? Don't you mean your
spout?

COFFEE POT MAN

(BREAKING DOWN) I was told I wouldn't
be ridiculed.

BACK TO SCENE

DR. RIVIERA

Damn! (CALLS TO HIS WIFE) Lucy, did
you record over the end of my tape?

A red-headed woman enters.

LUCY

Waaaaaaa!

INT. HOSPITAL - HOMER'S ROOM

Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie pay a final visit to Homer
before his operation.

HOMER

They're gonna be taking me in soon.

Bart, if something happens you're gonna
have to be the man of the house.

Bart has a fantasy.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Bart is WILLY LOMAN in "Death of a Salesman." He dejectedly enters the rundown house carrying a sample case and hangs up his fedora on a wall hook. Lisa is ironing.

BART

They're eating me alive out there,
Lis. You can't get by on a smile and a
shoeshine.

LISA

Bart, the refrigerator broke again.

BART

Once in my life I would like to own
something outright before it's broken!
I'm always in a race with the junkyard!
(BIG SIGH)

BART'S FANTASY ENDS

BACK TO SCENE

BART

I don't want to be man of the house.
We need you, Homer.

Bart give his father a hug.

LISA

Dad, I just want you to know that your
operation has an 87% chance of success.
(CHIPPER) That's 4% better than Russian
roulette!

HOMER

Woo hoo!

Homer hugs Lisa then picks up little Maggie...

HOMER (CONT'D)

(WARMLY) Oh, my little Maggie, I may never hold you again... ew, stinky pants.

He quickly hands her to Marge.

HOMER

Now, Marge, if the unthinkable should happen, you're gonna be lonely...

MARGE

Oh Homer, I could never remarry...

HOMER

Darn right. And to make sure, I want to be stuffed and put on the couch as a constant reminder of our marital vows.

TWO ORDERLIES enter and put Homer on a gurney. Marge gives Homer a kiss and tries to hold back tears as he's wheeled out.

INT. OPERATING THEATER

Dr. Riviera addresses MED STUDENTS who are seated in the glass-enclosed theater above the operating room.

DR. RIVIERA

Hi, everybody!

MED STUDENTS

Hi Dr. Nick!

DR. RIVIERA

We are about to start the bypass
operation. For the benefit of you
students, I will go slowly and make
many amateurish mistakes.

As Riviera talks, we PAN the students, who act as if
they're at the movies... some MUNCH popcorn. One guy's
asleep and a couple is making out. Lisa sneaks in a rear
door and takes a seat, unnoticed.

CENTER STAGE

Homer lies there, surrounded by the OPERATING TEAM.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Mr. Simpson, I'm going to ask you to
count backwards from ten.

HOMER

Ten... nine... eight...

Homer goes out like a light.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Wake up! I haven't given you the
anesthesia yet.

HOMER

Sorry. Counting backwards always puts
me to sleep.

The Anesthesiologist **SLAPS** a mask over Homer's mouth.

From HOMER'S POV, we see the doctors and nurses circle in
around him. The room gets fuzzy and Homer slips into
dreamland. The last thing Homer hears is...

DR. RIVIERA

What the hell is that?

Homer blacks out.

INT. WAITING ROOM

Bart, Marge and Maggie sit anxiously.

BART

(TO SELF) Well, Homer, whatever
happens, I'll always have my memories.

MUSIC: "THE WAY WE WERE"

BART'S FLASHBACK

As this plays, we see, in slow motion and soft focus, Homer strangling Bart. Bart's head rocks back and forth and his eyes bulge.

BACK TO SCENE

Bart wipes a tear from his eye.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

MOE

Let's have a minute of silence for our
pal Homer Simpson. (LOWERS HEAD)

BARFLY #1

(IMMEDIATELY) Beer, please.

BARNEY

Me, too.

MOE

Well, we tried.

INT. OPERATING THEATER

CLOSE UP on hands passing surgical instruments.

CLOSE UP on Riviera's brow furrowing in concentration as he operates on Homer. Suddenly he stops.

NURSE

Doctor, what's wrong? Don't you know
where to make the incision?

DR. RIVIERA

(NERVOUS LAUGH) Sure I do. I'm just weighing my options.

DR. RIVIERA (V.O.)

(THINKING) Should I flee to Canada or Mexico? Alright Nick, don't panic. Think back to Med school.

RIVIERA FLASHBACKS TO HIS COLLEGE DAYS...

INT. COLLEGE FRAT HOUSE

He is at a swinging fraternity party hitting on a SIXTIES BABE.

YOUNG RIVIERA

Seriously, I can prescribe anything I want.

FLASHBACK ENDS

BACK TO SCENE

DR. RIVIERA

(ALOUD) I know I'm supposed to cut something, but what? And where?

Lisa springs to her feet and pounds against the glass to get Riviera's attention.

LISA

(LOUD THROUGH GLASS) The incision in the coronary artery must be made below the blockage. Below!

DR. RIVIERA

Thanks, little girl.

Riviera resumes operating with confidence.

DR. RIVIERA (CONT'D)

(SINGING) Happy talk, keep talkin'
happy talk. Talk about things you like
to do...

Relieved, Lisa drops back into her chair.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

Marge sobs but tries to hide it.

BART

Mom, are you crying?

MARGE

(LYING) No, dear.

She looks up from her handkerchief. There are mascara streaks down her face and her eyes are red. Maggie offers her pacifier to Marge. Dr. Riviera enters the waiting room with Lisa.

DR. RIVIERA

The operation was a complete success.
And the states of Utah, Vermont,
Colorado and Hawaii said I wasn't fit
to practice medicine.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE CORRIDOR

Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie run down the hallway with VICTORY MUSIC in the background. They peer through a window to his intensive care room. Homer comes around and manages a weak wave to his family. They all smile broadly. Homer picks up a piece of pizza and starts eating.

MARGE

How'd he get that?

The nurse shrugs.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - A WEEK LATER - DAY

Marge helps Homer up the walk. The kids run out to welcome him home. Next door, Flanders is patching up a broken window.

FLANDERS

Hey, Homey, glad to see you're on the mend.

HOMER

Same here Flanders. What happened to your window?

FLANDERS

Would you believe I was robbed again by the same guy. Gotta admit -- that kidney's a keeper!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marge lies in bed. Homer enters in his pajamas.

MARGE

(SWEETLY) Homey, I wanted to do something special for your first night back.

HOMER

Marge, remember what the doctor said. It might be too much for me. (THEN)
Oh, who cares? Go ahead, knock yourself out.

Homer climbs into bed.

MARGE

Here.

Marge hands him the controls to the new, adjustable bed.

HOMER

Oh thank you, Marge (OPERATING
CONTROLS) Bed goes up. Bed goes down.
Wow! I feel like I'm right back in the
hospital.

MARGE

(KISSES HIM) Well, I'm glad you're
here.

HOMER

Marge, that heart attack changed my
life. Starting today, I'm a new man.
I'm going to eat right, exercise... oh,
who am I kidding? I'm going to break
these rules so quickly, I don't know
how you can respect me.

MARGE

Well, the important thing is that you
considered it for a few seconds.

Marge and Homer hug.

INT. HOMER'S HEART

We take a last look inside Homer's chest - the camera can't
find his heart. It's not where it should be. PAN AROUND
until we see the heart. It is upside down and the plumbing
is screwed up, but it's pumping away nicely. Homer's
HEARTBEAT turns into the SIMPSON'S THEME.

FADE OUT:

END OF STORY